

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (RPT INFO OMITTED)

FOL RPT ISLAMABAD 0056 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ERDA HQ WASHDC
ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN MD DACCA KABUL NEW DELHI OTTAWA PARIS
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 0056

M O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PK, PARM, MNUC, PFOR
SUBJECT: PAK RESOLVE TO PROCEED ON REPROCESSING DESPITE
CANADIAN NUCLEAR WITHDRAWAL

1. IN A JANUARY 3 REVISED NEWS CONFERENCE REBROADCAST NATION-WIDE, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED ANNOUNCED TO PAKISTAN FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS DECIDED TO TERMINATE ITS NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH PAKISTAN. THE MINISTER, SPEAKING FORCEFULLY AND WITH AN UNCOMPROMISING AND INTRANSIGENT TONE CLAIMED THAT THE GOC HAD BROKEN ITS AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR FUEL AND SPARE PARTS FOR THE KARACHI NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR (KANUP). HE TERMED THE GOC DECISION "ARBITRARY" AND TOLD THE NATION THAT IT VIOLATES THREE BILATERAL
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AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND CANADA ON COOPERATION FOR PEACEFUL USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

2. AFTER CITING PORTIONS OF CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIR MINISTER JAMIESON'S DECEMBER 22 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CANADA COULD NOT CONTINUE ATOMIC COOPERATION WITH ANY NATION THAT ACQUIRES A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT, AHMED DECLARED THAT THE REPROCESSING

PLANT AGREEMENT IS ENTIRELY BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND FRANCE AND THAT NO THIRD GOVERNMENT HAS A RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT PAKISTAN ABROGATE IT. AHMED DECLARED THAT PAKISTAN "UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES" WOULD FOREGO ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT. (IN REPORTING THE PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 4 PAKISTANI PAPERS CARRIED BANNER HEADLINES REAFFIRMING PAKISTAN'S COMMITMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE REPROCESSING PLANT TRANSFER.)

3. DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY REPORTERS TO LINK THE CANADIAN ACTION WITH AMERICAN PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE CANCELLATION OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT TRANSFER, THE MINISTER STOLIDLY AVOIDED ANY FORM OF RECRIMINATION OR CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES IN HIS STATEMENTS AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS. HE ALSO STEADFASTLY AVOIDED COMMENT ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT ISSUE EXCEPT TO REITERATE THAT PAKISTAN REMAINS COMMITTED TO ITS COMPLETION; HE TERMED FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS THAT FRANCE HAS ABANDONED THE REPROCESSING PLANT AGREEMENT AS "NONSENSE."

4. IN REPLY TO PRESS QUESTIONS AHMED PREDICTED THAT THE GOP WILL KEEP THE KANUP FACILITY RUNNING. HE FORESAW NO DIFFICULTY ACQUIRING FUEL FROM NON-CANADIAN SOURCES AND SAID THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW PARTS THAT SHOULD ORDINARILY LAST THE LIFETIME OF THE REACTOR, MOST SPARE PARTS WILL BE READILY AVAILABLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES OR ARE MANUFACTURED IN PAKISTAN. HE ALSO DISCUSSED CURRENT PLANS TO BRING SEVERAL TURBINE GENERATING PLANTS ON LINE TO QUARANTEE THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY FOR KARACHI'S CURRENT AND GROWING FUTURE NEEDS, EVEN IF KANUP MUST FOR SOME REASON BE TEMPORARILY SHUT DOWN.

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5. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION WHETHER KANUP IS STILL UNDER ANY CANADIAN SAFEGUARDS OR WHETHER PAKISTAN WILL CONTINUE TO HONOR SAFEGUARD AGREEMENTS UNDER PRIOR COMMITMENTS WITH CANADA NOW THAT THE CANADIANS HAVE CANCELLED THEIR PARTICIPATION, AHMED DECLARED THAT THE GOP IS EXAMINING THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AT THIS MOMENT.

BYROADE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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To: IAEA VIENNA
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